

SECRET

COMMENTS ON "THE BIG RED LIE"

1. As Mr. Mallan states, many Soviet fighter aircraft are obsolete or obsolescent. This is particularly true of the MIG-15 and MIG-17 fighters and of the IL-28 light bomber. A breakdown of Soviet fighters is approximately 60% MIG-17's, 20% MIG-15's, 15% MIG-19's, and 5% Yak-25's out of a total of approximately 10,000 fighter aircraft. The light bomber forces are almost entirely equipped with IL-28's.

2. Mr. Mallan is not quite correct as to the types of aircraft engaged in the battle of Formosa Strait. There were no MIG-19's involved, only MIG-15's and MIG-17's were used by the Chinese Communists. Even though the MIG-17 is a later model aircraft than the MIG-15, it had the same type of flight instability which made the MIG-15 very vulnerable. The guided missiles used by the F-86D's (~~F-860's~~?) were the overpowering feature of the Formosa Strait battle.

3. Mr. Mallan's statement that current Soviet fighters are little better than U.S. fighters of the late 1940's is in error. The MIG-19's are considerably better than U.S. fighters of that period.

4. Although we believe newer and more advanced fighters are beginning to go into operation, we agree with Mr. Mallan that the MIG-19 is as yet the Soviets best operational fighter. Its performance is somewhat better than the F-100A. It is more nearly comparable to the F-100C except that the MIG-19 has greater altitude capability.

5. The area rule which Mr. Mallan could not see in use applies to high subsonic and transonic flight. A modified area rule is used for supersonic aircraft which is not necessarily apparent to the casual observer.

6. In 1956 the Soviets demonstrated fighter prototypes having speed capabilities of Mach 1.6 to Mach 2.0. As yet these aircraft have not been seen in operation. Although a few of these aircraft are probably in operation, it is very unlikely that they would be located at a place where Mr. Mallan could have seen them.

7. We do not believe, as Mr. Mallan does, that the reported flight of Korovushkin was a hoax. It seems likely that a high speed flight was made, although we do not know the actual speed attained.

8. We disagree with Mr. Mallan's belief that the delta winged aircraft shown to General Twining were built for "show-off" purposes only. They undoubtedly were prototypes and may well have been rushed to completion for purposes of the show, but there is evidence that some of these aircraft are now going into service.

9. Mr. Mallan is in error when he states that Soviet aircraft are not equipped with air intercept radar. Some models of the MIG-17's and MIG-19's have AI radar, but the radomes differ from U.S. types and are not easily identified by the casual observer. The Yak-25 fighter has a very large radome.

10. We cannot agree with Mr. Mallan that the Soviets are incapable of making air-to-air missiles; however, we as yet have no evidence that they are in operational use.

11. The Soviets, as Mr. Mallan states, have no bomber comparable to the B-58 Hustler. The "Bounder," which was first seen in August 1958, is considered to be a prototype of an aircraft which may be comparable to the B-58.

12. Mr. Mallan is correct in stating that the Tu-4 bomber is a "bolt-for-bolt" copy of the B-29, although obsolete as a Soviet bomber, some 400 Tu-4's are still performing useful work in training, as cargo and passenger carriers, etc. His description of the Soviet Bison and Bear heavy bombers is also reasonably correct. His allegation that the Tu-114 turboprop transport design has been converted to a turbojet bomber is, however, unsubstantiated by intelligence and would seem very unlikely.

13. The picture of Soviet Civil Aviation presented by Mr. Mallan has a considerable element of truth. In the past, Soviet transport aircraft have lagged far behind those of the West. Despite a determined effort to develop modern transport aircraft and associated airline equipment, the results achieved to date have not been noteworthy. The Tu-104 is a very inefficient jet transport. The AN-10 and IL-18 turboprop transports are scheduled to go into operation this summer. They appear not yet to be quite up to Western standards for economy and efficiency of operation. The Tu-114 large turboprop and the Tu-110 four turbojet transports have not yet reached operational status.

14. Soviet aircraft engines are designed for a shorter overhaul life than those in the U.S., as Mr. Mallan states. This gives the Soviets a decided handicap in their transport aircraft, and is one of the principal contributors to their low efficiency in airline operations.

SECRET

15. We agree with Mr. Mallan that the USSR has not developed a nuclear propelled aircraft.

16. We disagree completely with Mr. Mallan's allegation that the Soviets lack electronics skills and are neither clever nor experienced with radar. Based on the known quality and quantity of their operational ground radars, the USSR now has an excellent air defense system. Large antenna structures and high performance radars for their air defense system have been confirmed by sightings.

17. Mr. Mallan is in error also when he mentions their lack of ability in miniaturizing electronic components. Detailed examination of numerous components by Western scientists has led us to conclude that Soviet miniaturization is very good.

18. The ICBM and Space statements are a promulgation of Mr. Mallan's theory set forth in Part I of "The Big Red Lie"; these were evaluated by separate memorandum, a copy of which is appended hereto as Tab A.

19. Mr. Mallan's statements and inferences in both Parts I and II which deal with ICBM's, Lunik, Space, and guided missiles in general, cannot be supported by facts. As a matter of fact there is firm intelligence which disproves the majority of his statements. Much of Mr. Mallan's basis for negating Soviet missile capabilities lies in his belief that the Russians have little mastery of miniaturization necessary for developing effective guided missiles. This subject has been dealt with above.

20. Mr. Mallan's theory that because he did not see missiles the Soviets do not possess missiles is too naive to warrant separate discussion. The Soviets are known to be engaged in an extensive guided missile research and development program encompassing advanced guided missile systems in all major categories.